

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended based on the fact that Applicant's porous polymer is prepared by phase separation of the polymer and its solvent (see line 7 of page 20 to line 2 of page 21 and original process claims 9-12).

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejections

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Paganin et al, Journal of Applied Electrochemistry (1996) (Paganin). Further, on page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 11, claims 1-8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,085,743 to Reddy et al (Reddy).

In response to these rejections, Applicant submits that the cited references do not disclose a porous polymer having pores obtained by phase separation of the polymer and its solvent. Therefore, Applicant submits that the invention recited in the amended claims, characterized by a porous polymer having pores obtainable by phase separation, is totally different from Paganin and Reddy.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) Paganin and Reddy, and thus withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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